



UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

Douglas J. McCarron

General President

October 4, 2017

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of the half-million members in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters who work in the construction and wood-products industries, I am writing to reaffirm our support for H.R. 3115 and urge you to work with Congressman Nolan to secure timely passage of the measure as soon as possible.

While our union fully supports thorough environmental reviews, it has become clear that project delays are having a significant negative impact on our members across the country. Our members and the contractors that employ them rely on timely project approvals. This allows for us to plan, train locally, and provide skilled craft workers to a project.

One example where the lack of a timely approval continues to adversely affect our members is the NorthMet mine in Minnesota. This project was subjected to over seven years of very thorough NEPA review. Subsequently, in January, the U.S. Forest Service issued a Record of Decision supporting the proposed land exchange. Unfortunately, the administrative process for closing the transaction is not moving forward quickly.

Congressman Nolan's bill, H.R. 3115 would ratify the US Forest Service Record of Decision and direct that the land exchange be completed within 90 days of the bill's enactment. The Carpenters very much want this step to be completed to move the project forward. We note that the US Forest Service supports the bill. Additionally, state and federal permitting for the project is underway with several draft permits already on public notice for comment, and that the permitting process and associated public meetings are separate of the land exchange.

Given these considerations, I would very much appreciate your help in getting this bill to a House floor vote soon so that we can begin work on the Senate side this fall.

If you have questions about our position on the bill or would like to discuss the land exchange and/or the project specifically, please reach out to Kyle Makarios, my Political Director, at kmakarios@carpenters.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas J. McCarron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" and last name "McCarron" clearly distinguishable.

Douglas J. McCarron
General President

cc: The Honorable Rick Nolan